

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SPC-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10

RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

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PM-07 SAJ-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /188 W

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R 071645Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8332

INFO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, IN, CZ

SUBJECT: HUSAK'S VISIT TO INDIA

1. COMING HARD ON THE HEELS OF BREZHNEV'S DEPARTURE, HUSAK'S THREE DAY STAY IN DELHT (AT THE BEGINING OF HIS DECEMBER 3-9 OFFICIAL VISIT TO INDIA) WAS SOMEWHAT ECLIPSED BY THE AFTERPLAY ON THE SOVIETS. THE DOCUMENTS RESULTING FROM HUSAK'S DISCUSSIONS AND HIS PUBLIC COMMENTS ECHOED SOME OF BREZHNEV'S THEMES. THE INDO-CZECH JOINT DECLARATION, LIKE THAT PRODUCED WITH THE SOVIETS, STRESSES THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF DETENTE. HUSAK PRAISED MRS. GANDHI'S LEADERSHIP AND TOOK THE FRATERNAL POSTURE TOWARD THE CONGRESS PARTY AS DID BREZHNEV.

2. A FUTHER SIMILARITY TO THE SOVIET VISIT WAS THE FOCUS ON THE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP. THREE AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED.

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A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC COLLABORATION PROVIDES

THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA WILL MAKE AVAILABLE RUPEES 800 MITION

(DQPU MILLION EQUIVALENT) TO FINANCE INDIAN DEVELOPMENT THROUGH 1977. THE NEW AGREEMENT PROVIDES SOFTER TERMS THAN DID TWO EARLIER CZECH CREDITS TO INDIA, IN PARTICULAR T THREEYEAR GRACE PERIOD FOR REPAYMENT ON CAPITAL GOODS. THIS HAS LED TO SOME SPECULATION THAT SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS MIGHT BE WORKED OUT WITHOTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.

3. A MORE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATMION INDICATED CZECH RELUCTANCE TO MEET ALL ON INDIA'S DEMANDS ON TRADE. IT RECOGNIZED " THE NECESSITY FOR A SUITABLE CHANGE IN THE TRADE PATTERN BUT MERELY RECORDS INDIA'S VIEW THAT FUTURE INDIAN EXPORTS SHOULD INCLUDE A GREATER SHARE OF NON-TRADITIONAL ITEMS. HOWEVER , A PROTOCOL THAT HAS NOT BEEN PUBLISHED REPORTEDLY DOES PROVIDE FOR EXPORT OF MORE NON-TRADITIONAL ITEMS (SYNTHETIC FABRICS, ENGINEERING DOODS) TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN 1974. THE AGREEMENT NOTED THAT TRADE VOLUME BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES HAS QUADRUPLED SINCE 1960 TO RUPEES 800 MILLION THIS YEAR AND THAT ALMOST DOUBLE THIS TURNOVER IS ENVISAGED FOR 1974

COMMENT: THE CZECHS HERE WERE A BIT MIFFED THAT BREZHNEV'S VISIT WAS FINALLY SCHEDULED JUST BEFORE THE LONGER-PLANNED ARRIVAL OF HUSAK. THE CZECHS WORK QUIETLY IN INDIA BUT HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION IN COMPONENTS AND TECHNICLA ASSISTANCE TO INDIAN INDUSTRY.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA STANDS THIRD(HAVING SLID BACK FROM SECOND IN 1970) AFTER THE SOVIET UNION AND POLAND AMONG INDIA'S EASTERN EUROPEAN TRADING PARTNERS. IN 1971, THE INDIAN SHARE OF CZECH IMPORTS WAS A LITTLE OVER ONE PERCENT AND THE CZECH SHARE OF INDIAN IMPORTS 1.7 PERCENT. NOT MUCH. SCHNEIDER

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